

**PHYSIOLOGY FOR PRACTITIONERS.** Edited by Ian C. Roddie, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.I. (Pp xi+202; figs. 49. £1:50). Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingston, 1971.

This excellent book reflects great credit on its major author, Professor Roddie, and on Doctors Binnion, Connell and Hurwitz who have contributed special chapters. Though Binnion and Connell have now left Belfast it is an achievement about which the Belfast Medical School may justifiably feel proud.

The editor of *The Practitioner* explains in a foreword how a middle-aged general practitioner requested a series of articles explaining the intricacies of modern physiology in as simple terms as possible, and how Professor Roddie accepted the challenge and with his associates contributed these twenty-four articles to *The Practitioner* throughout 1969 and 1970.

Professor Roddie has bravely resisted the temptation to present only such aspects of the subject as might be immediately and evidently related to the everyday practice of medicine. He has engineered a presentation of a wide segment of physiology which should interest and stimulate the medical practitioner in a way no text written for the general reader or junior student could hope to do, and yet this clearly carries a message of the clinical importance of the subject both to the general practitioner and to the consultant in all branches of medicine.

J.E.M.

**THE TISSUES OF THE BODY** by W. E. Le Gros Clark, F.R.S. Sixth Edition. (Pp. ix+424; figs. 132. £3.25). Oxford: Clarendon Press, and London: Oxford University Press, 1971.

When this book first appeared in 1939 it rapidly established itself, not only as an authoritative text book on the histological structure of the body, but as a most scholarly work, balancing in a unique manner well established and essential knowledge with a fresh outlook which introduced the student to the newer knowledge of the subject. This it continued to do with well chosen references to recent work and an approach which admirably linked the study of structure and function. It has been a stimulus to many discerning students and young research workers. As the author has noted references to some of the advances in the last five years have been added to this edition, but he has retained references to earlier studies, especially when they can rightly be regarded as classical studies. The work is still correct and still stimulating, but more extensive rewriting would have been necessary to convey the excitement and research flavour of the earlier editions of this classic. It is now somewhat unusual to have references cited by journal, volume and year and without the page.

The book does remain a splendid memorial to one of our greatest British anatomists.

J.E.M.

**THE EMERGENCE OF SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE** by W. P. D. Wightman. (Pp. vii+109. £0.37½p). Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1971.

This book is expanded from lectures given in the University of Aberdeen to medical students in their first year. The author was former Head of the Science Department of Edinburgh Academy and later Reader in the History and Philosophy of Science in the University of Aberdeen. He discusses in roughly chronological order evidence ranging from Egyptian archaeological finds to the experimentation and theorising of the Members of the Royal Society in the eighteenth century and the empiricism of Sydenham. The work is illustrated by apt quotations from early sources and is a closely argued study. The student of early medical and scientific history will find it interesting, but it makes considerable demands on the reader and will be read by only a small number of medical students to whom it is addressed.